St. Paul's Lutheran Church 2 Advent December 8, 2024

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELLS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, alive in the world, reviving creation, arriving soon.

C Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

God of mercy,

C we confess that we have sinned. We trust earthly powers and human authority alone. We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.

God of might,

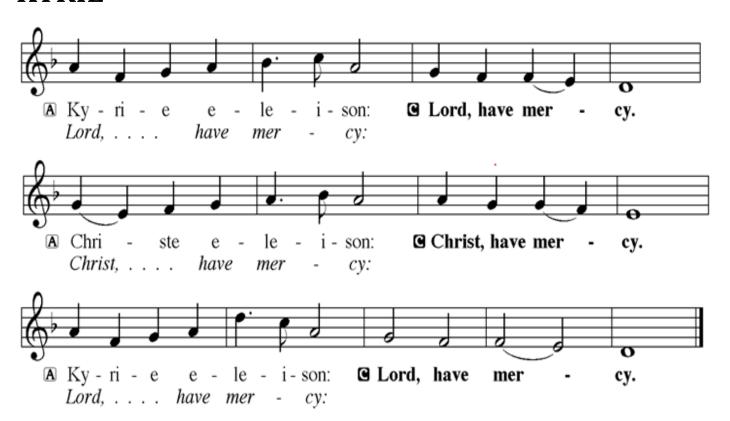
C we confess that we have sinned. We have turned away from our neighbors. We have trusted false promises. God in our midst,

C we confess that we have sinned. We plead: come to us. Bring your mercy to birth in us.

A righteous branch springs forth: it is Christ the Lord, our Savior, in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy. By the power of the Holy Spirit, receive the grace and forgiveness of God through + Christ Jesus, whose day draws near.

C Amen.

KYRIE

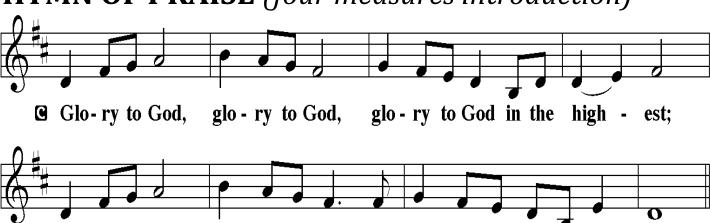


GREETING

Grace and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, and the promised gifts of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

C And also with you.

HYMN OF PRAISE (four measures introduction)



glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



I Lord God, heav-en - ly king, al-might-y God and Fa-ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.





PRAYER OF THE DAY

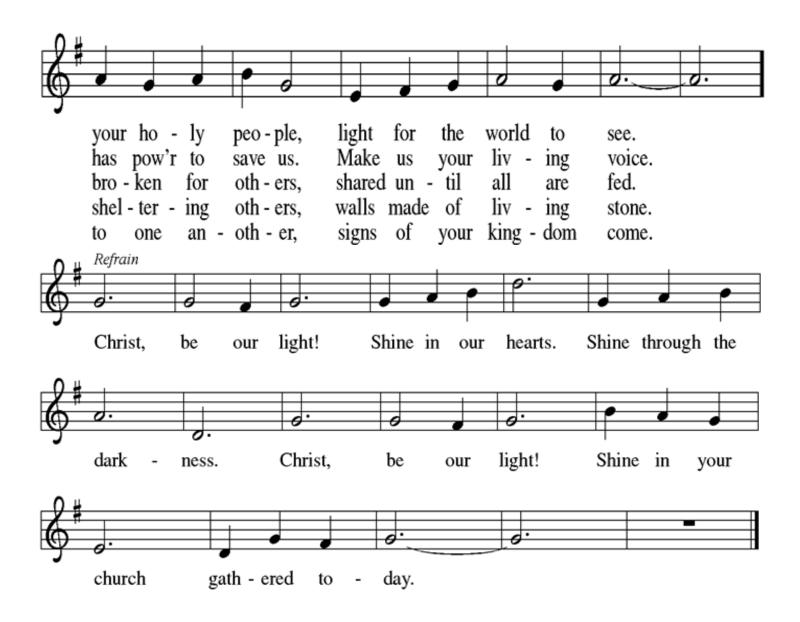
Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

"Christ Be Our Light" Lighting of the Advent Candle

Congregation Sings (Verse 2):





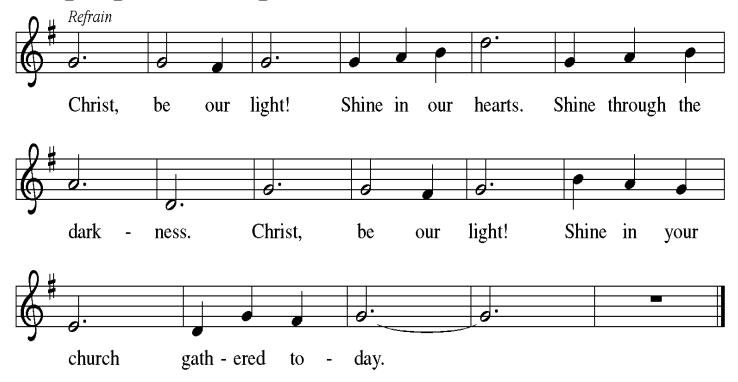
Hope for Those Who Are Weary (Responsive Litany)

- P The Light shines in the darkness,
- C but the darkness has not overcome it.
- P During Advent our weary souls seek God's daily strength.
- C The Lord gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.

- P We grow weary when fear overshadows faith.
- C The Lord gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.
- P We grow weary when destructive actions erupt in the world around us.
- C The Lord gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.
- P For all of us feeling weary this Advent season:
- C Grant that we might have the peace of Christ as we wait, the love of Christ as we act, and the grace of Christ as we speak.

Today we light two candles. The **first candle** illuminates patience in the areas of our lives where God has called us to wait. The **second candle** extends the promise of strength to all who feel weary and weak in the shadows of this world. As we continue our Advent journey, may our hope be kindled as the light grows brighter.

Congregation Sings:



C Christ, Be Our Light! (sing)

CLOSING PRAYER

God of mercy and compassion, scripture says that if we draw near to you, you will draw near to us. In a shadowy world where human weakness and weariness reside, we ask for you to draw near and dispel the darkness around us. May the light of this season illuminate our hope, strength, and steadfast endurace as we await the coming Savior. We pray this in the name of Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

HOLY BAPTISM OF JAMES LUCAS HARTWICK

PRESENTATION

P In baptism our gracious heavenly Father frees us from sin and death by joining us to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are born children of a fallen humanity; by water and the Holy Spirit we are reborn children of God and made members of the church, the body of Christ. Living with Christ and in the communion of saints, we grow in faith, love, and obedience to the will of God.

Sponsors: I present James Lucas Hartwick to receive the Sacrament of Holy Baptism.

P Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have your child baptized into Christ?

Guardians: I do.

P As you support your child in receiving the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities: to live with him among God's faithful people, bring him to the word of God and the holy supper, teach him the

Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments, place in his hands the holy scriptures, and nurture him in faith and prayer, so that he may learn to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace.

P Do you promise to help *James Lucas* grow in the Christian faith and life?

Guardians: I do.

P Do you promise to nurture *James Lucas* the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help him live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

Sponsors: I do.

P People of God, do you promise to support *James Lucas* and pray for him in his new life in Christ?

C We do.

PROFESSION OF FAITH (CREED)

P I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

- P Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?
- C I renounce them.
- P Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?
- C I renounce them.
- P Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?
- C I renounce them.
- P Do you believe in God the Father?
- C I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
- P Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?
- C I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended into hell, On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

- P Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?
- C I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT

- P The Lord be with you.
- C And also with you.
- P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C It is right to give our thanks and praise.
- P We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family, and through the sea you led your people of Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that those who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C Amen.

BAPTISM

P James Lucas, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

WELCOME

P Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life.

P Sustain *James Lucas* with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

C Amen

SIGNING WITH THE CROSS

P *James Lucas,* child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

Guardians & Sponsors: Amen

GIVING OF THE LIGHT

A Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

❖ PRESENTATION OF GIFTS

C We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.

FIRST READING: Malachi 3:1-4

¹ See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. ² But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; ³ he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. ⁴ Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Response: Luke 1:68-79

(Refrain: In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us.)

⁶⁸ Blessed are you, Lord, the God of Israel, you have come to your people and set them free.

C 69 You have raised up for us a mighty Savior, born of the house of your servant David. (*Refrain*)

(Refrain: In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us.)

⁷⁰ Through your holy prophets, you promised of old to save us from our enemies, ⁷¹ from the hands of all who hate us,

C 72 to show mercy to our forebears, and to remember your holy covenant.

⁷³ This was the oath you swore to our father Abraham: ⁷⁴ to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

C free to worship you without fear, 75 holy and righteous before you, all the days of our life. (*Refrain*)

⁷⁶ And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to prepare the way,

C 77 to give God's people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins.

⁷⁸ In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

C ⁷⁹ to shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace. (*Refrain*)

(Refrain: In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us.)

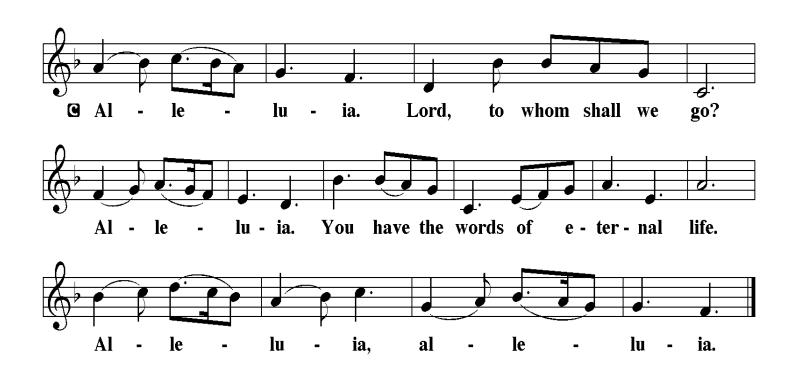
SECOND READING: Philippians 1:3-11

³ I thank my God every time I remember you, ⁴ constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, ⁵ because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶ I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷ It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. ⁸ For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus.

⁹ And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight ¹⁰ to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, ¹¹ having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.



GOSPEL: Luke 3:1-6

C Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea,

and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, ² during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³ He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴ as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. ⁵ Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; 6 and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

The gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON Pastor Timothy Holt

HYMN OF THE DAY LBW 29 "Comfort, Comfort Now My People"

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence.

Refining God, move through your church. Root out practices that harm your people, and kindle a fire for sharing the gospel among bishops, pastors, deacons, and all the baptized.

Lord, in your mercy,

C receive our prayer.

Renewing God, transform your creation. Steer us from habits that harm what you have made, and guide us in practices that preserve and restore creatures and habitats.

Lord, in your mercy,

C receive our prayer.

God of change, you accompany us through life's transitions. Be near to all who are changing jobs, moving, welcoming children, or facing the loss of loved ones. Sustain those who are ill or suffering. (We pray especially for Rick Bauer, Rick and Lana Evans, Courtney Hagedorn-Drew, Harold Hembree,

Ron, Tammy Kieffner, Zach Leinenbach, Candy Lewis, Judy Lorey, Eryn Mann, Zander Mann, Logan Musgrave, Bryar Rahman, Jami Roelle, Steve Rothgerber, Annette Schepers, Sandy Schnaus, Donnie Schwenk, Kaine Seitz, Larry Sendelweck, Cleoramae Stunkel, Martha Jane Tucker, Annie Voelkel, Ron Wiseman and all those we name before you either silently or aloud.) In times of change, remind us of your steadfast love.

Lord, in your mercy,

C receive our prayer.

We pray that you guide the military serving to protect us. Grant them safety and wisdom to carry out their assigned duties. (We pray especially for Austin Breitwieser, Luke Himsel and Cooper Uebelhor) Lord, in your mercy,

C receive our prayer.

Ruling God, teach the nations your ways. Strengthen organizations and communities that broker peace and care for refugees, immigrants, and all caught in the center of conflict.

Lord, in your mercy,

C receive our prayer.

Reforming God, fill this congregation with your presence. Enrich our seasonal preparations, and bless the efforts by worship committees, music ensembles, staff, clergy, and lay leaders as they work in the weeks ahead.

Lord, in your mercy,

C receive our prayer.

Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ.

C Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

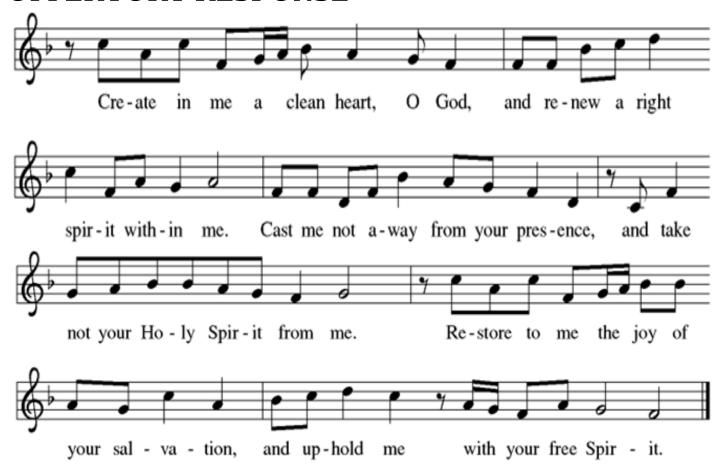
The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

OFFERING OF OUR TITHES AND GIFTS

OFFERTORY

OFFERTORY RESPONSE



OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

C God our provider, by your merciful hand abundance springs up from the earth. Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty. Let them be a sign of your steadfast love and faithfulness for all people, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMMUNION

All who are baptized are welcome to receive Holy Communion. Children who have not yet received instruction about Holy Communion are invited to come forward for a blessing. As you approach the communion assistant, the first will hand you the bread. Take and eat it. Then take a communion cup from the tray. After you have taken the wine, place your empty cup in the tray table beside the pillar.

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

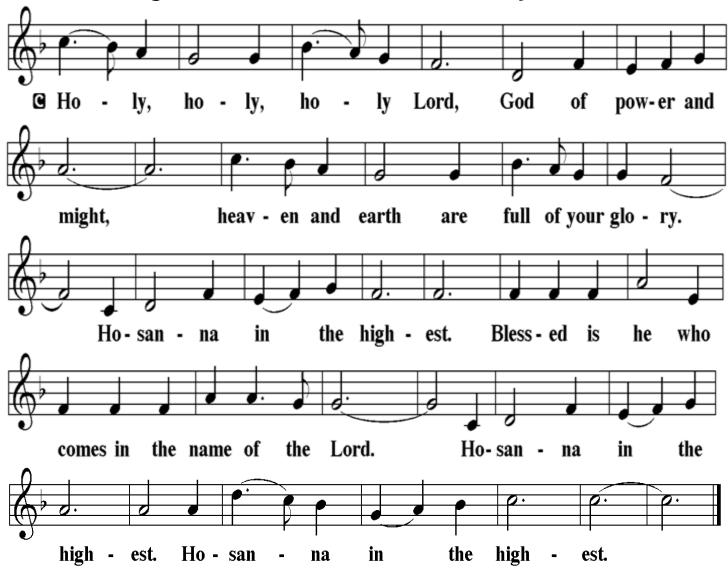
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everliving God. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes again to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS (four measures introduction)



EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

C Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you. **Amen.** The blood of Christ, shed for you. **Amen.**

LAMB OF GOD



COMMUNION HYMNS

LBW 35 "Hark, the Glad Sound" LBW 28 "Savior of the Nations, Come"

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C Amen.

POST COMMUNION CANTICLE (four measures introduction)



PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

C Generous God, in bread and cup you have revealed your glory for all people to see together. Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim your good news of liberation and release, brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen

BLESSING

The God of peace bless you, the love of Christ sustain you in hope, and the anointing of the Spirit + remain upon you now and forever.

C Amen.

SENDING HYMN LBW 33 "The King Shall Come"

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is near.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

<u>Mission Statement:</u> Worship Boldly, Empower for Discipleship, Cultivate Spiritual Maturity, Strengthen Community, Serve.

THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE FOR YOUR SERVICE TODAY:

Greeters: Carl & Robin Bauer

Comm. Asst: John Potts **Video:** Jeff Schmitt

Organist: Arlene Vonderheide

Lay Reader: Terry Seitz

Audio: Doug Wiseman

Acolytes: Blair Buse & Brandon Buse

ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY: 134 SS: 13

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK OF

Dec. 8th - Dec. 15th, 2024

Sun. Dec. 8th 8:00 AM Chancel Choir Practice

9:00 AM Sunday Worship Service

(Sunday School Christmas Program Practice – after communion until

11:00 AM)

Mon. Dec. 9th 6:00 PM Joint Council Meeting

Wed. Dec. 11th 6:30 PM Confirmation

Handbell Practice

Sat. Dec 14th 2:00 PM Wreath's Across America

Sun. Dec. 15th 8:00 AM Chancel Choir Practice

9:00 AM Sunday Worship Service

(Sunday School Christmas Program Practice – after communion until

11:00 AM)

ST. PAUL'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today we rejoice in the baptism of James Lucas Hartwick. James Lucas is the son of Jesse & Emma Hartwick. He was born on July 23, 2024. James Lucas is the grandson of Jeff & Arlene Luker and Debbie Hartwick. His sponsors are Karissa Luker and Cody Sherman.

The flowers on the altar this Sunday are in honor of John Church's 80th birthday!



Thank you to the outgoing council members. Your service to St. Paul's is appreciated: John Potts, Darlene Ziegler, Deidra Church, Cheryl Hauser, and Julia Stenftenagel

Welcome to the five newly elected council members: Keith Keller, Jen Begle, Mike Weisheit, Debbie Bauer, and Brandie Beck Thank you to everyone for the support that you gave our *Operation Christmas Child* shoe box project. Due to your generosity, 63 filled shoe boxes were delivered to the drop off point. That brings our grand total to 1,747 for the 24 years that we have participated. What an awesome gift to give. Many Blessings to you from the St. Paul's Women of the ELCA.

Join the LYO to spread the spirit of the season, with laughter, joy, and CHRISTMAS CAROLS!

Please make plans to join us today! Meet at Brookside Village at 11:00 a.m. We will also be going to Serenity Spring (formerly Good Samaritan).

Bring your kids, grandkids, friends, cousins, neighbors, etc. If you think you're a good singer, know you're a bad singer, or like to laugh with other people while you're singing, we want you!!

The Annual LYO Cookie Walk will be held on Sunday, December 22nd after the Children's Christmas Program. There will be homemade cookies, candies, and treats. This a great way to get a wide variety of goodies for your Christmas get-togethers. If

you would like to donate cookies, there is a sign-up sheet on the Welcome Center Desk.

Annual reports for each committee will need to be dropped in office or emailed to Marcie Rumfelt at secretaryst.paul@frontier no later than December 8th. Contact Marcie if you need assistance.

DO YOU HAVE A STUDENT WHO HEADED OFF TO COLLEGE??? We would appreciate if you would let us know their new address so we can send them the monthly newsletter. The Evangelism Committee also periodically sends out greeting cards and care packages. Please call the office with the address or email it to Marcie Rumfelt at secretaryst.paul@frontier.com

CEMETERY DUES REMINDER: Active members, desiring burial rights, are required to pay cemetery dues of a minimum of <u>\$20</u> per family. This includes all members in immediate family, including non-member spouses, and children under the age of eighteen. Every member over eighteen years of age shall be required to pay the minimum cemetery dues as an individual. No additional charge for gravesites shall be made to members of St. Paul's whose dues are current.

In Service to Our Country

Austin Breitwieser AMC Luke Himsel Cooper Uebelhor Redzikowo, Poland Virginia Beach, VA Colorado Springs, CO



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CHRISTMAS WREATHS HONORING VETERANS

Wreaths Across America is a program dedicated to the placement of Christmas Wreaths on the gravesites of Veterans buried in Arlington Cemetery and elsewhere in our nation.

St. Paul's is participating in a similar program this year. Through donations to the cemetery, artificial wreaths with bows have been purchased to be placed on the gravesites of the Veterans buried in our cemetery.

We believe this will be a very touching event and we are inviting all of you to come to participate. Observers are also encouraged to come and can even remain in the car to watch if desired.

The event will go on rain or shine since it is in conjunction with the national event being held on this same date.

The Cemetery Board is asking for individuals to help place the wreaths on the graves. Volunteers are asked to meet at St. Paul's Cemetery by 2:00 PM on Saturday, December 14th.

Wreaths will be removed from the graves at 12:30 PM on Saturday, January 4th, 2025.

Please plan to participate or observe this patriotic event to honor our veterans. The date and time again are, **SATURDAY**, **DECEMBER 14**th **AT** *AT 2:00 PM*.

If you have any questions call Marvin, Harvey or Tom.



Basket will be located in the Welcome Center

UILD*A*BASKET Here is how you can participate!

Generations is collecting Christmas baskets that will be delivered to your homebound client service area this holiday season. You can find more information on how to build your Christmas basket at

www.generationsnetwork.org

Recommended baskets to use: Laundry basket, storage totes with lid, hamper, tall kitchen trash can, heavy duty bags or even a box. If you feel extra jolly, **DECORATE IT!!!** Drop off your completed basket to a location provided below between

November 18th—December 20th

Closed for Thanksgiving November 28th & 29th

Suggested Basket Items

- **Paper Towels**
 - Dish Soap
- Sponges
- Germ X Hand Sanitizer
- Trash Bags
- Kitchen Towels
- Tissue
- **Night Light**
- Shampoo & Conditioner
- **Body Lotion**
- Deodorant

- **Bath Soap**
 - **Toilet Paper** Long Handle Shower Brush
- **Bath Towels**
- Wash Cloths Toothpaste
- Toothbrush
- **Denture Cream**
- Laundry Detergent/Dryer Sheets * **Playing Cards**
- Band-Aids/First Aid Kit
- **Batteries**
 - Flashlight
 - Books/Magazines/Puzzles

Envelopes/Stamps

New Year Calendar

Pillow/Pillow Case(s)

Word Searches/Crosswords

Adult Color Books/ Pencils

Writing Pad/Pen

Lap Blanket

Light Bulbs

DROP OFF LOCATIONS & TIMES BASKET

Bicknell Guardian Angel 11617 E State Road 67 M, T, W, TH, F 8am-4:30pm Bloomfield Highrise 100 W. Main St/Back Door M, T, W, TH, F 10am-2pm Ferdinand Senior Center 313 W. Ninth Street 8am-Noon M, T, W, TH, F Jasonville Senior Center 145 S. Lawton Street M, T, W, TH, F 8:30-11:30am Jasper Arnold F Habig Center 1301 Saint Charles Street M,T, W, TH, F 8am-3pm Linton Glenburn Community 618 W. Glenburn Road M, T, W, TH, F 8am-4pm Petersburg Pike Co United Way 719 E Main St call to schedule 812-582-9781 Shoals Senior Center 409 Courthouse Drive M,T, W, TH, F 8am-3pm Vincennes Generations Office 1019 N. 4th St. M, T, W, TH, F 9am-3:30pm 211 E. Main Street M, T, W, TH, F Washington Senior Center 9am-3pm

Contact Generations if you need to schedule a basket pick up at 812-888-4527 or akramer@vinu.edu





St. Paul's will be collecting food items for our local food bank during the month of December. This would be a great way to get the whole family involved in giving this Christmas season. Create a box for the whole month or add single items to the grocery cart in the welcome center.



During the month of December, the LYO will be collecting supplies and wish list items for the **Ronald McDonald** House in Evansville. A box will be located in the Welcome Center to collect the donated items. Members of the LYO will deliver supplies to the Ronald McDonald House after the first of the year. *Thanks in advance for your generosity!*



There will be a sign-up sheet for anyone who would like to bring cookies!



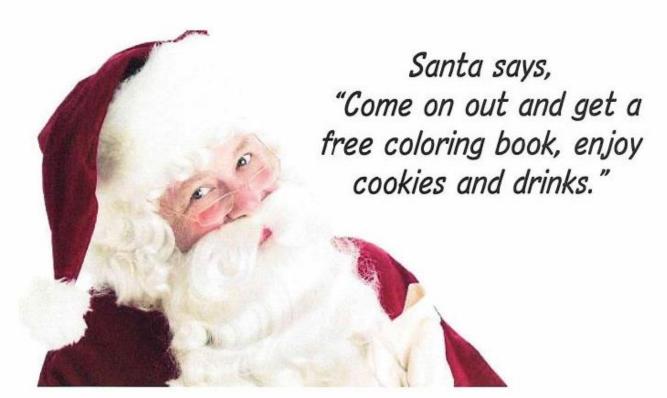
Visit with Santa

Sunday, December 8th

from 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

at the Dubois Community Park Center

5430 E Jasper Dubois Road, Dubois, Indiana



Let Santa know if you've been naughty or nice!

Sponsored by the Dubois Ruritan Club Questions call 812.630.5189

St. Paul's Lutheran Church Year-End Giving Cheat Sheet

If you need or want to make a year-end contribution for tax purposes, we hope you'll consider donating to St. Paul's Lutheran Church's "Special Projects Fund" to benefit the upcoming Sacred Places Grant Project match. This project aims to take care of significant property needs at St. Paul's. A more formal introduction of the Sacred Places Campaign and Committee is forthcoming. Still, we did not want to miss the opportunity to encourage year-end giving by letting our congregational members know that gifts to the Special Projects now count toward our matching goal requirement!

<u>Please consult with your tax advisor</u> to ensure your gift benefits the Church and you.

Options to consider:

- A cash gift write a check to St. Paul's and designate it to the Special Projects Fund
- A gift from your **Donor Advised Fund** (DAF)
- Donate appreciated stock stocks donated directly to a charity avoid capital gains tax
 - Please get in touch with your advisor to transfer stock to our Edward Jones Account, #266-19498. Our financial planner is Nick Schnarr with Edward Jones.
- If you're age 70 1/2 or older, consider making a qualified charitable distribution from your IRA.

As a reminder, all gifts must be booked before <u>December 31st</u> to be eligible for tax benefits, so we encourage you to act quickly to ensure the gifts are completed in time!

If you have any questions regarding the Sacred Places Grant or any giving options, please see a church council member.

Thank you!